## **Embassy of the United States of America**



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May 13, 2011

## Demonstration Notice:

The Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) announced today that it has scheduled a political rally in Skopje on Sunday, May 15, 2011 in support of their campaign for the upcoming elections in June.

The crowd will gather at five locations between 1800 - 1900 hours.

- Skopje Fair parking lot (82 buses)
- Olympic Pool parking lot (65 buses)
- Parking area below Kale (116 buses)
- Boris Trajkovski Hall parking lot (116 buses)
- Partizanska Street behind Universal Hall (119 buses)

There is no estimate on the number of expected participants. However, each bus has a 52 seat capacity. A SDSM rally held in December 2010 had over 30,000 participants.

The crowd will walk along the streets from the five meeting points towards the Government building between 1900 and 20.00 hours. Major traffic congestion should be expected as roads leading from the five meeting points to the Government building will be blocked by pedestrians.

Although the event is expected to be peaceful in nature and police will be on site, these events are unpredictable and have the potential to turn violent. Please adjust your routes and/or travel plans accordingly.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Macedonia from time to time in response to world events or local developments. We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can become violent and unpredictable. You should avoid them if at all possible. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to what the local news media has to say.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the <u>U.S. Embassy's website</u>. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's <u>Bureau of Consular Affairs website</u>, where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country

Specific Information. If you don't have internet access, we have a call center for updates --1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

U.S. citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the <u>State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u>. The <u>U.S. Embassy</u> is located at ul. Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje. The telephone number is (389) 2-310-2000, <u>e-mail</u>.